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(430)

UNCLASSIFIED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 24, 1957

SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: Military Junta Requests United States Recognition

PARTICIPANTS: ARA - Assistant Secretary Rubottom
Col. Jose Luis Cruz-Salazar, of Guatemala
MID - Mr. Bayard King, Guatemala Desk Officer

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Amembassy Guatemala

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Embrey OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-R-201

714.00/10-2457

Col. Cruz-Salazar told Mr. Rubottom that he had been officially informed by the Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Affairs that a military junta had assumed power in Guatemala this morning. He gave Mr. Rubottom a resume of events since the October 20, 1957 presidential elections in Guatemala leading to the formation of the Junta, and gave his estimate of the Junta's three members, Cols. Oscar MENDOZA Azurdia, Robert LORENZANA Salazar, and Gonzolo YURRITA Nova. Col. Cruz-Salazar had rather favorable opinions of them, especially Mendoza and Lorenzana.

Col. Cruz-Salazar said that he had been requested personally by the President of the Junta, Col. Mendoza, to ask for prompt recognition of the Junta by the United States. He said that while the public order situation in Guatemala City was still disturbed and difficult, the Junta had confidence that it would be able to restore order promptly. Col. Mendoza had also given assurances that the Junta intended to comply with all its international obligations. Furthermore, Col. Cruz-Salazar said, now that the October 20 presidential elections had been annulled, the Junta intended to call for new elections as soon as practicable. He dwelt upon the importance to de facto governments of foreign recognition, and said he hoped that the United States would find it possible to accord recognition soon.

Mr. Rubottom said that the U. S. Government and people had particularly friendly feelings for Guatemala, and that the Department would give as rapid consideration as possible to the question of recognition of the Guatemalan Military Junta.

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1957 OCT 25 AM 7:12 — Control Rec'd: 15704 — October 25, 1957 3:20 a.m.

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FROM: Guat mala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 158, October 24

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Ydigoras delivered radio address 6 p.m. telling of visits he had from Junta representativ s. He said he told them he wanted return to constitutionality to have Congress convoked to annul elections which had robbed him of presidency, to name Flores Avendano interim president and to call for new elections. He said emissaries wanted his acceptance of Oscar Mendoza as Minister of Defense and that although he himself was willing accept Mendoza his followers refused because Mendoza had been Olivas deputy. He said he would insist that any agreement reached between him and Junta should be in writing and witnessed by unimpeachable personage. He added he had sought Archbishop's intervention in this regard but had not received reply. He said Junta wanted until 11 tomorrow morning to consider his propositions but he had urged them take decision by 10 tonight. He called on his followers avoid violence, to be on guard against Communists and professional agitators and to meet with him immediately in Central Square to await Junta's decision. During course his talk he repeatedly expressed view that military Juntas would be great misfortune for Guatemala and that constitutionality should be preserved.

SPARKS

RP/2

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1957 OCT 23 AM 7:19

Control: 14045
Rec'd: October 22, 1957
9:31 p.m.

Action
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AIR

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 146, October 22.

PRIORITY

Government of Guatemala announced today state of siege declared effective immediately.

SPARKS

JVC/9

Note; Mr. King (MID) informed 10:20 p.m. 10/22/ cwo: JRL

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